

**Ravalli County FSA Office**  
**1709 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Hamilton, MT 59840**

**County Committee Members**

Tony Coller, Chair  
Hans McPherson, Vice Chair  
Ted Heiland, Member  
Julie Schram, Minority Advsr

**FSA Office Personnel**

Coral Maxwell, Prog Tech  
Mary Jane Mohn, Prog Tech  
Curt Anderson, CED

**Dates to Remember:**

**February 18** – Holiday Office closed

**March 17** – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss and honey

**March 17** – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2007 spring-seeded crops

**March 31** – Final loan/LDP availability date for various crops harvested in 2007

**April 1** – Deadline for payment limitation changes

**May 15-July 15** – Primary Nesting Season under the old CRP hay/graze provisions

**May 15-August 1** – Primary Nesting Season under the new CRP hay/graze provisions

**June 2** – Final loan/LDP availability date – various crops harvested in 2007

**Links:**

<http://www.usda.gov>  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/MT>  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt/>  
<http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov>  
<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/>  
<http://extn.msu.montana.edu>



**2007 Livestock Compensation Program**

*Did your livestock graze on any Non-Irrigated Pastures (Native or Tame) between May 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007? If so, you could be eligible for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP).*

Signup is underway at the Ravalli County Farm Service Agency for the 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). Eligible Pasture includes Native or Tame *Non-Irrigated* Pastures. This includes most State and Federal Leases if either of the following apply: 1) Land leased on a long term basis that the County Committee (COC) determines requires lessee contribution, including but not limited to wells, fences, or other maintenance and upkeep inputs. 2) Pasture or grazing land leased for cash or fixed amount for an established grazing period. Copies of leases are required to determine pasture eligibility. Previously irrigated grazing land that was not irrigated in 2007, because of lack of water for reasons beyond the applicants control may be eligible. Eligible Livestock include most grazing animals that are maintained for commercial use as part of the farming operation. *Ravalli County producers that reported non-irrigated grazing during acreage certification in 2007 are being notified. If you do not receive notification and your livestock grazed on non-irrigated grazing in 2007, please contact the office.*

**What you need to apply:**

- ✓ Livestock Numbers beginning 1/1/07, and continuing through the calendar year including purchases and sales.
- ✓ Documentation of livestock ownership.
- ✓ Copies of leases
- ✓ Non-irrigated pastures grazed in 2007

### **Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of Non-insurable crops when low yields occur as a result of natural disaster. Eligible crops are those commercially produced for food, livestock consumption, and some specialty crops. Eligible producers must pay an administrative service fee of \$100 per crop per administrative county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. *Payment of a service fee does not guarantee coverage.* There are many eligibility requirements that must be met. ***The Application Closing Date for all crops except value loss and honey is March 17, 2008.*** Contact the office for further information.

### **2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program Signup**

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to producers who suffered quantity and quality losses to their 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disaster. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or had coverage under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.** *Ravalli County producers have been notified recently if they are eligible for this program. If you have not been notified and believe you are eligible, please contact the office.*

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster. Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. Signup for CDP quality losses will be announced at a later date.

### **1099-G Mailed from Kansas City**

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2007. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with e-Authentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact the county office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

Step-by-step instructions for obtaining a Level 2 access to obtain your CCC-1099-G electronically are available on the Montana Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under the "I Want To" section and by clicking on the "Do Electronic Business with FSA on My Home Computer."

**Disaster Payments Issued**  
**To date more that \$14 million has**  
**been issued in disaster benefits to**  
**Montana Producers:**  
**CDP = \$11,680,340**  
**LCP = \$2,962,409**  
**LIP = \$119.699**

### **FSA Hiring a Summer Intern**

If you know a college student who is interested in agriculture issues in Montana and wants to work for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), now is the time for them to apply for a job. FSA in Montana is providing students the opportunity to learn more about the Farm Service Agency as a full-time career through the summer intern program.

The Montana vacancy announcement for one summer intern position will close March 14, 2008.

The position is open to any student who:

- Is a U.S. citizen;
- Is currently enrolled in a college or university; and
- Is planning to continue their education in the fall of 2008.

For the vacancy announcement logon to the Montana FSA website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

FSA will also be hiring a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) position. SCEP is an internship program that allows a student part-time employment with FSA while they are completing their college education. The goal of the program is for the student to work for FSA at the completion of their degree.

For further information or an application packet logon to the Montana FSA website or call Linda Itoh at 406/587-6876 or Dave Pitts at 406/587-6787.

### **Dairy Disaster Program Signup Suspended**

Signup has temporarily suspended for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program III which began December 3, 2007. Initially DDAP was limited to disaster declarations approved prior to February 28, 2007. Recent legislation has extended the eligibility date to December 31, 2007.

**(CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN)**

### **(DAIRY DISASTER CONT'D)**

The temporary signup suspension will allow administrative procedure to be updated to adhere to the current legislation.

DDAP-III provides benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses during a variety of adverse weather conditions. FSA will provide information regarding signup resuming when it is received. *Ravalli County Dairies are eligible for this program if they suffered losses due to drought conditions in 2007.*

### **Census of Agriculture**

Beginning December 28, 2007, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) mailed out Census of Agriculture forms to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms were due by February 4, 2008, however, NASS will accept surveys completed following the February 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. Forms may be returned by mail or, for the first time, forms may be filled out online via a secure web site. The online form may be found by logging on to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under "In the News" January 28, 2008.

Conducted every five years by USDA, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farm and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, or to file an extension for completing your survey, contact the NASS Montana Field Office at 406/441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612 or logon to the Montana Agriculture Statistics website at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>

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### **Montana Range Days**

Join the fun during the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Montana Range Days being held June 16-18, 2008 at Utterback Middle School in Conrad. Participants will spend three full days exploring the Rocky Mountain Front while learning about natural resources. 2008 Montana Range Days is sponsored by the Pondera Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Northern Ag Network.

For complete details and a registration form, logon to [www.montanarangedays.com](http://www.montanarangedays.com) or contact Kody Farkell at (406)278-7611 extension 101 or [kody.farkell@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:kody.farkell@mt.nacdnet.net).

### **Montana Envirothon**

The Montana Envirothon will be held April 28-29, 2008 in Lewistown. The Envirothon assists high school age students learn more about five different natural resource areas. This program is sponsored by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and cooperating agencies. Five-member teams made up of students from the same school enrolled in grades 9-12 compete locally and regionally with the winning team advancing to the state competition. Sponsorship is available through your local conservation district. For more information, logon to the Montana Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/camps> or call (406)444-6667.